LAOMEDEA PSEUDODICHOTOMA VERVOORT, 1959 (HYDROZOA, CAMPANULARIIDAE) AND *STEGOPOMA BATHYALE* VERVOORT, 1966 (HYDROZOA, TIARANNIDAE), TWO NEW RECORDS FROM THE BAY OF BISCAY

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Knowledge of the hydroid fauna of the NE Atlantic, including the Bay of Biscay, has progressed in recent years. Although many of the collected species are common and well known, there are still several records of unfamiliar species from any particular area. These are especially deep-water species since most collections take place in shallow areas.

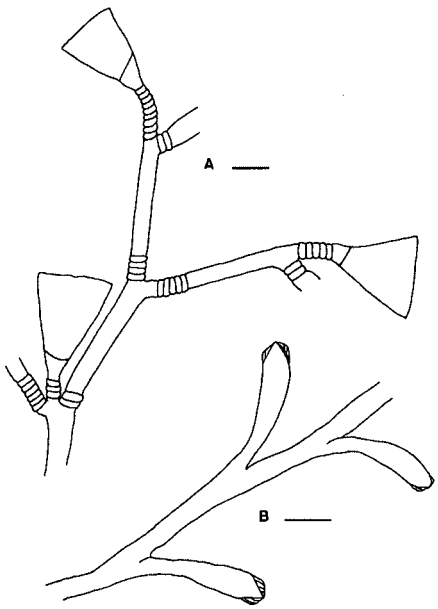

Fig. 1. A. *Laomedea pseudodichotoma* Vervoort, 1959, part of colony; B. *Stegopoma bathyale* Vervoort, 1966, part of colony. (Scale bars A: 250 µm, B: 400 µm)

The two thecatae hydroids studied, *Laomedea pseudodichotoma* Vervoort, 1959 and *Stegopoma bathyale* Vervoort, 1966, were obtained from three benthic stations located along the Central Cantabrian coast off Asturias (southern Bay of Biscay). They were dredged during 1987 by the COCACE cruise (Central Cantabric Oceanographic Cruise, Oviedo University).

Laomedea pseudodichotoma Vervoort, 1959 (fig. 1A)

Laomedea (Eulaomedea) pseudodichotoma Vervoort, 1959. VERVOORT (1959): 316-318, figs. 56-57; VERVOORT (1966): 104.

Laomedea pseudodichotoma Cornelius, 1982. CORNELIUS (1982) 111-112, fig. 21; RAMIL & VERVOORT (1992): 240-241, fig. 67e.

Material examined

COCACE cruise, Station D3, 43°51,23'N-5°40,69'W, 28 VI 1987, 172 m, fine sand and shell debris, five infertile colonies, substrate unknown.

Description

Although no gonothecae are present, the material is well characterized as *L. pseudodichotoma* by the presence of the oblique hydrothecal diaphragm separating the basal chamber from the rest of the hydrotheca. The colonies comprise branched stems 1-1.5 cm high. The main measurements in

microns are: length of hydrotheca (from diaphragm to margin): 465-495 μm; diameter of hydrotheca at margin: 364-416 μm; hydrothecal pedicel length: 287-614 μm. The main characteristics of the present material are in agreement with the recent description gave by RAMIL & VERVOORT (1992) of the BALGIM specimen, but the hydrothecal margin is slightly wider in our specimens than in those observed by RAMIL & VERVOORT (1992) and also VERVOORT (1959). The hydrotheca is not elongate conical as these authors pointed out but is campanulate in shape.

Stegopoma bathyale Vervoort, 1966 (fig. 1B)
Stegopoma bathyale Vervoort, 1966. VERVOORT (1966): 114-115, fig. 14; RAMIL & VERVOORT (1992): 34-36, fig. 5.

Material examined
COCACE cruise, Station H1, 43°55,00'N-5°45,00'W, 1 VII 1987, 702 m, fine sand and stones, two infertile colonies growing on a sunk rope; Station H2, 43°56,50'N-5°48,90'W, 893 m, very fine sand, stones and *Lophelia pertusa* coral bank, three infertile colonies growing on *L. pertusa* branches.

Description
Flabellate colonies 2-3 cm high. The general structure of the colonies agrees with previous descriptions of the species (VERVOORT, 1966; RAMIL & VERVOORT, 1992). The measurements of the studied specimens are: length of hydrotheca: 262-345 μm; diameter of hydrotheca at margin: 105-138 μm; hydrothecal pedicel length: 117-189 μm.

L. pseudodichotoma and *S. bathyale* were for a long time reported only along the west African coast. Recently, RAMIL & VERVOORT (1992) reported them at several northerly localities. *L. pseudodichotoma* from the Gulf of Cadiz at 180 m depht and *S. bathyale* at various localities (off Cadiz, off Cape Sao Vicente and off Casablanca) between 394 and 1592 m depth. As these authors pointed out the occurrence of *S. bathyale* in Atlantic waters was unexpected but it may have been confused with *S. plicatile* from which it is distinguished by having all the hydrothecae pedicelate. Although 43 stations were sampled along the shelf and continental slope from the Central Cantabrian coast off Asturias, depth ranging from 50 to 1347 m, these species were collected from only three stations. The discovery of these species in the Bay of Biscay notably extends its distribution to the north of the previously known range.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to express my gratitude to Professor W. Vervoort of the Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum of Leiden for help and advice on the identification of the hydroids.

ABSTRACT

Laomedea pseudodichotoma *Vervoort, 1959 (Hydrozoa, Campanulariidae) and* Stegopoma bathyale *Vervoort, 1966 (Hydrozoa, Tiarannidae), two new records from the Bay of Biscay.* – Two thecatae hydrozoan species, *Laomedea pseudodichotoma* (Campanulariidae) and *Stegopoma bathyale* (Tiarannidae) previously known from the west African coast and several south Iberian localities (Cadiz, Cape Sao Vicente), are recorded for the first time in the Bay of Biscay. Observations were made on material collected from three stations (depth range 172-893 m) located along the Central Cantabrian coast off Asturias (southern Bay of Biscay). The recording of these species in the Bay of Biscay waters shows that their distribution extends further to the north in the temperate Atlantic than previously known.

Key words: Hydroids, *Laomedea pseudodichotoma*, *Stegopoma bathyale*, Bay of Biscay.

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(Rebut: 31 I 95; Acceptació condicional: 2 V 95; Acc. definitiva: 13 VI 95)

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